



Parker Jewish Institute
HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Dear Parker Family Members and Friends,

We hope that this note finds you and your family safe. We are writing to provide you with this important update from the Parker Jewish Institute, with facts about the COVID-19 vaccine and the importance of staying vigilant throughout the pandemic. We have every confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine. Still, when it comes to getting vaccinated, many seek information, which we provide here:

Why should I get vaccinated?

- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect myself, my family, the residents and my community, and to set an example for others.

How do we know the vaccine is safe?

- The technology used to make the vaccine has been studied for more than 10 years. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece that looks like the “spike protein.” The spike protein is found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. Our bodies recognize that this protein should not be there, so they build antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 infection.

Why should we trust the vaccine?

- The FDA is using the same strict standards that it has for decade.
- No steps are “skipped.”
- The FDA advises a minimum of 3,000 participants to assess safety. The phase 2 trials have 30,000 to 50,000 participants. This really demonstrates how safety is a top priority for the FDA and the medical community.
- Two independent advisory committees are reviewing the results. Members and experts of these committees have no conflict of interest and are not associated with any vaccine manufacturers;
 - The Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) that advises the FDA.
 - The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that advises the CDC.

Can mRNA vaccine give me COVID-19?

- No, because the vaccine is not made of live virus.

Is it safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you have had COVID-19?

- Yes. Even if you have had COVID-19, it is important to get vaccinated. It could give you longer or better protection against the disease. Even if you have positive antibodies, you should get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Who should not get the vaccine?

- History of severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of the vaccine.
- History of severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of the vaccine.
- People with acute COVID-19 infection and still under isolation/quarantine (can be vaccinated after resolution of infection).

Parker, in partnership with Walgreen's, has successfully administered to residents and staff the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Still, we remain vigilant in our stance against the virus. We continue to wear masks, constantly wash or sanitize our hands, practice social distancing and avoid large gatherings. These are measures our team members follow, both inside and outside Parker.



Parker Jewish Institute is proud to announce that it is the first skilled nursing facility to earn the WELL Health-Safety Rating for Facility Operations and Management through the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI). The WELL Health-Safety Rating is an evidence-based, third-party verified rating for all new and existing building and space types, focusing on operational policies, maintenance protocols, stakeholder engagement and emergency plans to address a post-COVID-19 environment now and into the future.

This Safety Rating is designated to those organizations that take the critical steps to prioritize the health and safety of their staff, visitors and stakeholders. The Ratings help guide leaders in preparing their spaces for re-entry in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, instilling confidence in those who come through the building as well as the broader community.

We hope this information is helpful to you. As always, our clinical team is available to answer any questions you may have regarding your loved one. We will continue to provide updates as they become available. For more information, please call the Family Call Center at 718-289-2888.

Respectfully,

Michael N. Rosenblut
President and CEO

Dr. Igor Israel
Chief Medical Officer